



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**
Philadelphia District

PROJECT FACT SHEET

Batsto River Fishway Restoration, Mullica River, Burlington County, NJ

September 2005

CONGRESSIONAL INFO: Sen. Lautenberg NJ, Sen. Corzine NJ, Rep. LoBiondo NJ-02

ACTIVITY: Continuing Authorities

TYPE: Environmental Restoration (Sect. 206)

PROJECT PHASE: Planning and Design Analysis

AUTHORITY: Section 206, WRDA 1996

LOCATION: The Batsto River is a tributary to the Mullica River Located in Burlington County. Batsto Lake is located approximately two miles upstream from the confluence of the Batsto River and the Mullica River. Historic dams at the project site have prevented fish passage for over 200 years. The project is located at Batsto Village State Historic Park, which is focused on preserving the historical accuracy of a 19th century New Jersey community.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The goal of the Batsto River Fishway Restoration Project is to restore access to spawning and rearing habitat for migratory fish on the Batsto River. The restoration goal will be accomplished through the installation of a permanent fishway on the Batsto River to allow migratory fish to proceed unimpeded around a spillway (dam) to historic spawning and foraging areas upstream.

Many anadromous fish spawning runs located throughout the mid-Atlantic states, including New Jersey, have been lost through the construction of dams that are impassable to such species as alewife (*Alosa pseudoharengus*) and blueback herring (*Alosa aestivalis*). The installation of the fishway at Batsto Lake would provide access to approximately eight miles of river to migratory fish. The target fish species will be alewife; however, blueback herring would also be suited to use the fishway. Denil fishways will be used for the project, specifically the aluminum Alaska Steeppass Model A type. Three fishway sections 10 ft. each in length, along with an underground water pipe will be needed to complete the project. Multiple project designs will be evaluated in terms of ease of construction, dam safety, and fish passage success.

The installed fishway will greatly benefit migratory fish on the Batsto River. Currently, a large run of river herring migrate to the base of Batsto Lake dam but are impeded from reaching historic spawning and foraging areas upstream on the Batsto River. The fishway will provide access for alewife, blueback herring and American eel. Based on past projects, the fishway usage estimates from the New Jersey Division of Fish, Game & Wildlife, Bureau of Freshwater Fisheries (BFF) for alewife are: 50 for year one, 100 year two, 300 year three, 900 year four, and 1800 by year five. The BFF is supportive of seeding adult alewife in Batsto Lake and further upstream before and after the fishway installation to facilitate usage by migratory fish.

Additionally, recreational fishing opportunities for the public will increase with future “herring runs. The recreational fishery for striped bass (*Morone saxatilis*) will benefit from the increase in the aquatic biodiversity and forage fish. The number of fish species and piscivorous birds upstream of the dam will rise due to the overall improvement in the health of the Batsto River riparian system with a return to the natural aquatic food webs. The Batsto Village provides an excellent venue for environmental education concerning migratory fish passage and the importance of New Jersey's rivers.

PROJECT STATUS: A PCA was signed on July 17, 2002. Construction notice to proceed occurred September 2004 with construction underway and will be completed in September 2005.

FINANCIAL DATA:

(\$000)

PRP	\$ 10
Planning and Design*	\$ 125
Construction	\$ 475
Federal Cost:	\$ 490
Non-Federal:	\$ 210

BUDGET DATA:

(\$000)

FY04:	\$40
FY05:	\$300

*Funding is 100 percent federal for Planning and Design Analysis Phase with non-federal reimbursement of 35 percent in the Construction phase.

SPONSOR: New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection

CRITICAL ISSUES: None

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